The London Gazette

Published by Authority.

From Saturday February 20. to Tuesday February 23. 1720.

Naples, February 9.

ON the 14th of last Month Sir George Byng, with the Transports under his Convoy, having on board General Mercy with the last Body of the Imperialists, consisting of 5000 Foot and 1000 Horse, sailed from the Port of Messina for Trapani; but before they could get out of the Phare, the Wind coming about and blowing hard, forced them in again; and it was the 21st before they could get their Passage through. On the 25th, being in the Height of Palermo, and meeting with contrary Winds and hard Gales, the Fleet was obliged to bear up for Melazzo; but Sir George Byng having General Mercy on board his own Ship (the Barfleur,) he beat up to Windward, and got to Trapani the 29th. They found the Imperial Troops cantoned from old Trapani along the Coasts to Marsala and Mazara; and the Spanish Army from Alcamo by Saleme to Castel-Vetrano, fortifying the first and last Posts with Intrenchments and some Redoubts with Batteries of Cannon. The Marquess de Lede was said to have with him about 9000 Foot and 3000 Horse, having left a few Troops about Catania, Castrogiovane, and in Augusta, and the Blockade before Syracuse. The Country between the two Armies being eaten bare, and the Imperialists being under Difficulties for want of Forrage, General Mercy took a Resolution to march towards the Enemy with the Forces he had, without waiting many Days for the Transports from Melazzo; though being obliged to leave Garrisons in Mazara and Marsala, Old and New Trapani, and in some other Posts thereabouts, he could not take with him more than 8000 Foot and about 2000 Horse, (unless the Troops with the Convoy from Melazzo should timely arrive:) But with these he proposed to advance the 5th or 6th of this Month, to try to make some Attempt on the Enemy, or at least to extend his Forces so as to be able to subsist his Cavalry. Sir George Byng left him on the 3d Instant, and came hither in the Barfleur which is now carreening, leaving Captain Saunders with four or five Ships and two Bomb-Vessels, and ordering him to send some of them to cruise off Palermo, to intercept any Succours that might be sent from Spain, and himself to hold constant Correspondence with General Mercy.

Naples, Feb. 15. Yesterday came in from Trapani, the Royal Oak, a British Man of War, with Letters for Sir George Byng from Captain Saunders, giving an Account, that on the 4th Instant a Trumpeter arrived at Trapani, with a Letter from the Marquess de Lede for General Mercy, desiring a Passport for Major General Ponte with 12 Horse or Dragoons accompanying him, to make certain Propositions to General Mercy on the Part of the Marquess de Lede. The General immediately dispatched a Passport, as also a Trumpeter of his own for Sig. Ponte's greater Security. The 5th in the Night General Mercy received Intelligence, that the Spaniards had abandoned Castel-Vetrano, and withdrawn the Troops and Artillery they had there into the Neighbourhood of Alcamo. The 7th in the Afternoon Sig. Ponte arrived at General Mercy's Quarters, and declared to him, that the Marquess de Lede had commissioned him to offer in his Name to evacuate Sicily, on Condition all his Troops should be transported into the Spanish Dominions, in order to which he proposed a Suspension of Arms. General Mercy answered, that he had neither Orders nor Powers to agree to such Proposals: Yet would venture to consent to a Suspension of Arms for six Weeks, provided Palermo were forthwith put into his Hands, with the Southern Part of Sicily, and that the Marquess retired with all his Forces to Castrogiovane in the Middle of the Island, till the Sentiments of the respective Courts were known. Sig. Ponte was sent back with this Answer on the 10th, and General Mercy designed to march towards the Spaniards on the 13th, though the Troops with the Convoy from Melazzo were not yet arrived. The said General having thought fit to dispatch Collonel Bellaire to the Emperour on this Occasion, he came over hither in the Royal Oak, and is gone on for Vienna.

Paris, Feb. 28. A Proclamation, in his most Christian Majesty's Name, is printed, and publickly affixed as usual, expressly forbidding all Subjects of the Emperour, of the King of Great Britain, and of the States General of the United Provinces, who have been already or shall hereafter be declared Rebels, to come into or abide in this Kingdom, and commanding all such Subjects who are declared Rebels and are now residing in any part whatever of his Dominions, to depart the same within the Space of eight Days; on pain of being seized and imprisoned, and punished for disobeying his Majesty's Orders.

Whitehall, Feb. 22.

Whereas Information has been given upon Oath, that John Silver, jun. of Sutton-Scotney, in the County of Southampton, Yeoman, was on the 23d of December last robbed, and very barbarously murdered by two Highwaymen in Popham-lane, in the said County; which Highwaymen rode upon two grey Geldings, and one of them was a fair handsome middle-sized Man, wearing a light-coloured great Coat, and light Wig; the other a black-favoured tall lusty Man, wearing a close-bodied brown great Coat, and lightish Wig, having a large Scar or burnt Mark in his Cheek: His Majesty is graciously pleased to promise to such Person or Persons who shall discover and apprehend the said Highwaymen, so as they be brought to Justice, the Sum of One Hundred Pounds for each, over and above the Reward given by Law in such Cases. And whereas by the same Information upon Oath, it appears that it was by the Hand of the above described black tall lusty Man the said John Silver was murdered, his Majesty is pleased to promise the Reward aforesaid, together with his gracious Pardon, to the above-described fair middle-sized Man, upon his Discovering the said Murderer, and causing him to be apprehended and brought to Justice.

J. CRAGGS.